

March 5, 2010

WASHINGTON, DC - Today, U.S. Rep. Michael Arcuri (NY-24) introduced legislation that would cut salaries for Members of Congress and their office budgets by 5 percent next year. Arcuri, who returned over \$120,000 (over 8%) of his official office budget to the U.S. Treasury in 2009 for Federal budget deficit reduction, is introducing this legislation to require all Members of Congress to apply the same level of fiscal responsibility and reduce spending.

"Congress can't seriously talk about reigning in spending in Washington and working to decrease our nation's debt, if we don't step up and lead by example," **Arcuri said**. "During these tough economic times, American families have been forced to cut back and tighten their financial belts; we should expect Congress to do the same and set an example for the rest of the federal government. Every little bit helps, and it is critical that each member of Congress cope with reality and cut their expenses wherever possible. It's time for Congress to cut spending just as American families and small businesses are doing."

"The Congressional Belt Tightening Act of 2010," a bill authored and introduced by Arcuri, would:

- Reduce salaries for Members of Congress by 5 percent in 2011;
- Require an up or down vote on all salary increases for Members of Congress indefinitely;
- Reduce each Member's Representational Allowance (MRA) - office budget - by 5% for 2011 and hold steady in 2012. The MRA covers office expenses such as equipment and staff salaries.

Arcuri gained the support of several members of the House of Representatives who signed onto the legislation as original co-sponsors. They include Reps. Joe Donnelly (IN-02), Brad Ellsworth (IN-08) and Dan Maffei (NY-25).

In the past year, Arcuri has also demonstrated his commitment to fiscal responsibility by:

- Co-sponsoring H.R. 4255, which would stop the congressional pay raise for 2011.
- Co-sponsoring H.R. 156, which would stop the congressional pay raise for 2010.
- Voting for H.R. 1105, the FY-2010 Omnibus Appropriations Bill, which contained a provision stopping the pay raise for 2010.

- On January 22, 2010, sent a letter calling on President Obama to put a freeze on all non-defense discretionary funding in the President's FY 2011 budget proposal to Congress.
- Led debate and voted for H.R. 2920, the Pay-As-You-Go bill, which passed in the House in July and was signed into law by President Obama in February. This legislation requires that Congress and the President account for increases in federal spending by requiring offsets or ways to generate needed revenue.

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